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Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01655 022101Z

73
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /061 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6334
INFO USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, CA
SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER RICHARDSON SPEAKS TO PRESS ABOUT NORAD

REF: OTTAWA 1641

1. SHORTLY AFTER THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT CABINET MEETING WHICH DISCUSSED AND APPROVED RENEWAL OF THE NORAD AGREEMENT (REFTEL), DEFENSE MINISTER JAMES RICHARDSON MET WITH PRESS AND ISSUED A WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH POINTED OUT THAT CANADIAN AIR SPACE WOULD HENCEFORTH BE UNDER CANADIAN CONTROL AND THAT THE AIR COMMAND OF THE CANADIAN FORCES IS TO GET A NEW HEADQUARTERS IN WINNIPEG. LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN MODERATE COVERAGE TO ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL ON MAY 2 PLACED REPORT ON FRONT PAGE, AND STATED THAT "UNTIL NOW, AIR DEFENSE REGIONS HAVE STRADDLED THE CANADIAN-US BORDER, WITH NORTH BAY THE ONLY NORAD REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN CANADA. UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, THERE WILL BE TWO NORAD REGIONS IN CANADA-- THE ONE IN NORTH BAY AND A NEW ONE TO BE BUILT NEAR EDMONTON AT A COST OF $25 MILLION." ARTICLE POINTS OUT THAT WESTERN REGION
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01655 022101Z

USED TO BE COVERED FROM A US BASE (BUT FAILS TO POINT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

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OUT THAT PARTS OF EASTERN US USED TO BE COVERED FROM
CANADIAN BASE.)

3. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, "AN AIDE TO MR. RICHARDSON
SAID THE AGREEMENT TO CHANGE THE REGIONAL BOUNDARIES
IS NOT PART OF THE RENEGOTIATION OF THE AGREEMENT, WHICH
EXPIRES THIS MONTH. CANADIAN AND US OFFICIALS HAD BEEN
WORKING ON CHANGES TO THE NORAD BOUNDARIES FOR SOME TIME."
ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY DESCRIBING FUNCTIONS OF THE NEW
WINNIPEG AIR COMMAND AND BY REPORTING THAT WINNIPEG-BASED
TRAINING COMMAND WILL BE RENAMED "THE CANADIAN FORCES
TRAINING SYSTEM" WHERE TRADES WILL BE TAUGHT. THE AIR
COMMAND WILL TRAIN PILOTS AND NAVIGATORS, AND WILL BE
HEADED BY LT. GEN. WILLIAM K. CARR, CURRENT DEPUTY CHIEF
OF DEFENSE STAFF.

4. COMMENT. EXTAFF OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT THEY
HAD SUCCEEDED FOR SOME TIME IN RESTRAINING RICHARDSON
FROM GOING PUBLIC ON NORAD MATTERS BY ARGUING THAT
PUBLIC STATEMENTS INAPPROPRIATE UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS
COMPLETED. HOWEVER, ONCE CABINET HAD APPROVED DRAFT
AGREEMENT, RICHARDSON COULD NO LONGER BE RESTRAINED
FROM PUBLICIZING THOSE ASPECTS OF NORAD FROM WHICH HE
HOPES DERIVE POLITICAL BENEFIT AS A NATIONAL POLITICIAN
(CANADIAN CONTROL OF CANADIAN AIR SPACE) AND AS A
WESTERNER (NEW INVESTMENT AND JOBS IN EDMONTON). TO
MAXIMIZE HIS POLITICAL BENEFIT, HE ADDED REFERENCE TO
THE BASING OF NEW AIR COMMAND NEAR WINNIPEG, ONE OF
WHOSE CONSTITUENCIES HE REPRESENTS IN PARLIAMENT.
WHILE ALL THIS PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLE, EMBASSY HAS
MADE THE POINT WITH EXTAFF CONTACTS THAT NEW NORAD
ROCC CONFIGURATION NOT YET FULLY CLEARED WITHIN USG,
AND HAS EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST
TO AVOID SUCH PREMATURE DISCLOSURES. EXTAFF OFFICIALS
SYMPATHETIC, RECOGNIZE THAT GOC EXPRESSION OF DISCONTENT
WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN EVEN LOUDER HAD SHOE BEEN ON OTHER
FOOT, AND SUGGEST THAT US UNHAPPINESS OVER
RICHARDSON STATEMENT BE REITERATED BY DOD TO
DND COUNTERPARTS WHOSE MINISTER LIKELY BE MORE
AMENDABLE TO ADVICE FROM WITHIN HIS OWN DEPARTMENT
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THAN FROM OFFICIALS IN ANOTHER DEPARTMENT.
JOMNSON

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